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TO: Senate Co-Chair Steve Cassano
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Honorable Members of the Government Administration and
Elections Committee

FROM: Paul J. Knierim
Probate Court Administrator

RE: RB 5247, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the
Auditors of Public Accounts

DATE: February 22, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Raised Bill No. 5247, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts. We support section 9 of the bill, which extends whistleblower protection to Probate Court employees.

Under C.G.S. section 4-61dd, a state employee or employee of a quasi-public agency or large state contractor who makes a whistleblower complaint enjoys statutory protections against retaliation by his or her employer. Probate Court employees do not fall into any of the categories of employee specified in the statute. Section 9 would close that gap by adding explicit reference to Probate Court employees.

The State Auditors brought the gap in the current statute to our attention during a periodic audit. We are in agreement with their proposed language and respectfully request that the committee act favorably on this part of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.